



## NPDES Compliance Inspection

Inspection Date June 13, 2000

Facility Name HECLA  
Facility Location Mile 15, Hwy. 91 West  
St. George, Utah 84771Contact Name David Suhr  
Title Idle Properties Manager  
Phone Number (208) 769-4122

SIC Codes 1099

Inspector Name	Title/Affiliation	Phone Number
Donna K. Inman	NPDES/ Multimedia Enforcement/EPA	(303)312-6201
Carol Russell	Mining Team/EPA	(303)312-6

## Others Present at Inspection

Deborah Hamlin	Real Estate Services, BIA-Southern Paiute Field Station
Lawrence Snow	Council Member for the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Tribe

The inspection was made without entering the leased property. Observations were made from the BIA road that runs adjacent to the property on the east side of the property. The purpose of the inspection was to observe any changes to the property since the November 16, 1998 inspection.

The HECLA area of concern consists of a 500-foot diameter closed pond/ waste pile located on 8.25 acres of property leased from BIA, which is located adjacent to the 187 acres of land leased by OMG/APEX. The land is leased with BIA indefinitely. The pile/pond is enclosed with a six-foot fence. The HECLA evaporation pond, associated with the pile/pond, has no NPDES permit and the site is not covered by the general storm water permit.

The HECLA pile/pond has an asphalt liner installed by St. George Mining. During the 1998 inspection HECLA personnel stated that the water passing through the pile, could come in contact with organics, waste oil, flammable thinner, and solvents from the three different gallium and germanium solvent extraction circuits. Most of the solvent was recycled back into process, but solvent used to float on the surface of the pond, causing frothing in the pond. Solvents are not used in the cobalt operations. Cobalt waste material was also disposed of in the pile.

During the June 13, 2000 inspection, the new "evaporation pond" was observed and the HDPE liner was seen flapping in the wind. Both ponds appear to have a significant amount of water in them for this time of year. HECLA's original leachate collection pond (evaporation

pond) is HDPE lined. The pond is 18-24 inches deep. HECLA built a second pond, in December 1998 to accommodate any excess water from the original evaporation pond.

The area of seepage on the northeast side of the waste pile near the old creek bed was observed. There was staining on the side of the pile where the saturated area is. No flows of water were observed. The crystalized deposits had formed on the ground and rocks down gradient of the seep, observed during the 1998 inspection, had been obscured by "recent" earth moving activities.

Some of the storm water runoff from OMG goes onto the HECLA property. The OMG tungsten plant feedstock storage area no longer drains to this area. Part of the OMG storm water from the cobalt processing area still flows through the HECLA property, then back onto OMG property. There are numerous areas of erosion around the perimeter of the waste pile. An unlined ditch has been dug from the cobalt feedstock and filter cake storage on OMG's property located south of the HECLA property to try and divert storm water flow away from the HECLA pile. The ditch appears to be dug directly adjacent to the area of seepage on the northeast side of the waste pile. The storm water from the HECLA property eventually reaches a catchment basin used for stock watering located off the leased properties.